

REMARKS

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended to remove the reference numerals listed therein. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 10-21, 23-26 and 33-36 are pending in this application. Claims 5, 8, 9, 22, and 27-32 have been canceled by way of Article 34 amendments.

Conclusion

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

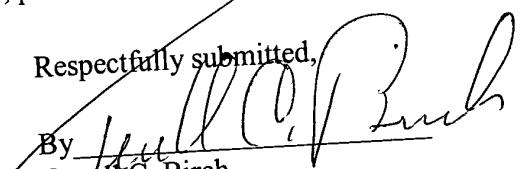
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Terrell C. Birch (Reg. No. 19,382) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: October 21, 2004

TCB/clb

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Terrell C. Birch

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